

Welcome to the February Issue of OUR TOWN

Greetings! We are thrilled to present to you the second issue of this year's newsletter. In this edition, we have a plethora of updates from various town departments, highlighting numerous opportunities to participate in exciting programs. The town has been working diligently to prepare for the Annual Town Meeting, and we can assure you that it will be an eventful one! We are also thrilled to announce that the Community Center construction is progressing beautifully, and the project is building upwards, with new sections of the building being added. This issue also sheds light on the various boards and committees that work tirelessly to cover significant areas of our town, such as trees and conservation areas. We hope you are as excited as we are to read this newsletter and learn more about what's happening in our town!

If you are part of a Town board/committee/commission and would like to submit content for the January issue, please contact newsletter@doverma.gov

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and tell a friend about the newsletter too!

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VOL. 3, NO.2, FEBRUARY 2024

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

Board of Selectmen

Meet the Team

Town Departments

- Town Clerk
- Council on Aging
- Parks and Rec
- Library
- Treasurer
- Planning Department

State Representative Schools

Boards and Committees

- Recycling Committee
- Tree Preservation
- Conservation
- Minuteman School



Board of Selectmen

Town Meeting:

Our meeting is an Open Town Meeting, meaning all the town's voters may vote on all matters. At Town meeting four major items are decided:

In Brief

- How money is spent to run the town
- Salaries for elected officials
- Changes to the Town's local statutes, called bylaws
- Citizen's Petitions

We hold our Town Meeting in the New England tradition, which has developed through a combination of custom, statute, and judicial interpretation. To learn more about the procedures, please visit our Town Meeting webpage at https://www.doverma.gov/453/Town-Meeting. On this webpage, you will find a glossary of terms related to town meeting and information about the officials and their duties involved in the process.

The Board is currently collaborating with sponsors and committees to create informative presentations for the Town's website. These presentations aim to educate residents on the various warrant articles, which concluded in mid-January. The Board's objective is to ensure that residents are equipped with a comprehensive understanding of the warrant articles, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding voting.

Water Resource Task Force

The Water Resource Task Force is actively engaged in partnering with CDM Smith to create a comprehensive and detailed Water System Sustainability Report for the Town. To strengthen the report, CDM Smith is simultaneously conducting a study to model the sustainability and resilience of the aquifer, which aims to provide a more in-depth analysis of the water system. These reports, which are anticipated to be comprehensive and insightful, will be available on the Town's website in early March.

Town Budget

The Warrant Committee, the committee responsible for reviewing and approving the town's budget, is diligently examining the budgets of various departments for FY2O25. To ensure that they have a comprehensive understanding of the requests, they have been holding weekly meetings with town departments and committees. Their primary focus is on the requests that exceed level services, i.e., the requests that go beyond the basic services offered by the town. The vetting process is rigorous and will continue throughout the month of February, during which time the committee will thoroughly assess each request to ensure that it aligns with the town's overall objectives and budgetary constraints.

Dover Community Center Construction Update

All foundations have been completed for the Community Center Pavilion. The underground conduits and piping for electrical, water, and septic systems have also been completed, as well as backfilling. Gym staging and winter condition protection have been finished. Brick repointing for the 1910 Building is over 50% complete. For additional information, please visit the Building Committee updates page at https://www.doverma.gov/452/Community-Center-Building-Committee.

In February, the pavilion slab will be installed, and steel will be delivered and installed. The gym walls will be completed soon.

On January II, the Board of Selectmen instructed the Building Committee to proceed with the construction of an enclosed office space near the entrances of the Center for an estimated cost of \$70.000.

Effective February I, Dick Malcolm will take over as the new Chair of the Building Committee, replacing Ford Spalding. Dick has been involved with the Community Center project for about 20 years and is an experienced building contractor.



Framing going up for gym walls



Pavilion slab preparations



Pavilion building frame

Meet the Team

The Board of Selectmen is pleased to announce that Joseph Vinci has been appointed Chief of the Dover Police Department.

Chief Vinci comes to the Town of Dover from the Westwood Police Department where he serves as lieutenant and is the Operations Division commander. Vinci began with the Westwood Police Department as a patrol officer in 2006. He ascended to positions of increasing responsibilities, to sergeant from 2012-2018, to detective sergeant from 2018-2019, and to lieutenant in 2019.

Through his roles in Westwood, Vinci assisted with the department's Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission



MPAC) accreditation process and helped to bring a Mental Health Clinician to the department. He has managed training for the department's sworn and civilian staff, oversaw Internal Affairs/Professional Standards functions, as well as transitioned the department to a new records management system, scheduling system and policy review system.

Vinci has also served as an instructor at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI, since 2014, teaching the Field Training & Evaluation Program to sworn officers through RWU's Justice System Training & Research Institute.

Vinci has completed the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Series. He holds a Master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Curry College, a Bachelor's degree in Government from Dartmouth College, and a Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management from the Massachusetts Municipal Association-Suffolk University.

Vinci was recently appointed as Dover's new police chief on December 14, succeeding Chief Peter McGowan who retired in September. Vinci expressed his excitement and gratitude, stating that he was honored to lead the Dover Police Department. The selection process was rigorous, and the Board of Selectmen appreciated the hard work and diligence of the Police Chief Screening Committee members in ensuring the best candidate for the position was chosen. Chief Vinci began his role as Police Chief in late January.

Town Clerk

Primary Election and Special Town Election Date: March 5, 2024 Polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM

You have some options for voting: in person on Election Day (s); Vote by Mail; Absentee Vote; Early Vote.

1. Vote by Mail

Postcards have been sent out to all voters in Dover by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. You can fill those in, and ballots will be sent to you automatically. If you request a ballot for every election this calendar year, and you are an UNENROLLED (independent) voter, YOU MUST PICK the ballot you would like to receive for the two primaries! Alternatively, Vote by Mail ballots can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office with a complete vote-by-mail application. For those who want to vote by mail, you can bring your ballots to the Town Clerk's Office, drop them in the drop box at 5 Springdale Avenue (silver box in the semicircle driveway on Springdale Avenue), or mail them through the post office.

2. Absentee Ballot -

An absentee ballot is essentially the same as voting by mail, with the exception that you can come and vote an absentee ballot in person at the Town Clerk's office during office hours, as soon as ballots are available.

3. Early Voting in Person

at the Dover Town House, in the Great Hall located at 5 Springdale Avenue on the following dates and times:

Saturday, February 2410:00AM - 2:00PM

Monday, February 26 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Tuesday, February 279:00AM - 4:00PM

Wednesday, February 28 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Thursday, February 299:00AM - 4:00PM

Friday, March 19:00AM - 1:00PM



4. Vote in Person

on March 5 at the Dover Town House, in the Great Hall located at 5 Springdale Avenue. Polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM.

To vote in the March 5 election, you must register to vote by no later than Saturday, February 24. Registration will be conducted at the Town Clerk's Office between the hours of 9:00AM and 5:00PM until February 24. Alternatively, you can register online at:

https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/

ALL DALLOTS ALLET DE DECELLED DY COO DA ONLA A DOLLE

Council on Aging

Click <u>here</u> for the

Dover Council on Aging invites you to our upcoming programs. You can check out our <u>January/February newsletter</u> with full slate of programs. Some February highlights are below. Sign up by emailing <u>coa@doverma.gov</u> or by using our <u>Online Sign-Up Form</u>.

TRAVEL TALK: BHUTAN

Monday, February 5 at 10:30am

Dover Town Library, Community Room

with Photojournalist Barry Pell

The small and predominantly Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan, squeezed between China and India, is tucked within the rugged Himalaya mountains. Monasteries abound with crimson-robed monks performing centuries-old rituals. The country has no traffic lights, smoking is illegal, and employees must wear traditional clothing during work hours. Years ago, Gross National Happiness was identified by the nation as being more important than Gross National Product. Join Barry Pell to learn about the history and culture and the fascinating way of life that has only just begun to change after centuries of isolation.

TALK WITH THE TOWN:

PLANNING BOARD

Wednesday, February 7, 10:30-11:30am

Dover Town Library, Community Room

The COA welcomes Town Planner Jasmin Farinacci to discuss the ongoing work of the Planning Board. Learn about the work on the construction hours bylaw to address noise complaints, a small-scale solar bylaw, village center design guidelines, and more.

VALENTINE'S DAY SOCIAL

Wednesday, February 14, 1:00-2:00pm

Dover Town Library, Upstairs

Enjoy a sweet treat and celebrate Valentine's Day with the COA and the Dover Town Library.

BEFORE BROOKLYN: THE UNSUNG HEROES WHO HELPED BREAK BASEBALL'S COLOR BARRIER

with Ted Reinstein, WCVB Journalist and Author

Monday, February 26 at 6:00-7:30pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Sponsored by Friends of Dover COA

When Jackie Robinson took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers in April 1947, he made history by breaking Major League Baseball's longtime ban on Black players. What's less known-and largely lost to history-is that a small army of men, women and institutions of many types fought for many long and bitter years prior to Robinson's triumphant debut in Brooklyn. This story includes the founders of the Negro Leagues, the Black press, and even the Pullman Porters on America's railroads, who risked their jobs to distribute African-American newspapers promoting integration in professional sports. Join WCVB-TV Chronicle's Ted Reinstein to learn about the unsung heroes who were true pioneers, battling the color barrier for sixty years before Brooklyn, to make a path possible for Jackie Robinson.

Library

The Dover Town Library is enormously pleased to announce the launch of a new website! Over the next day or so, your usual links to <u>dovertownlibrary.org</u> will take you to a fresh design that answers so many of the concerns we've heard from our community.

Here are some of the features we're excited to introduce:

- A mobile-friendly design that works just as well on smartphones as on computers
- A brand new view of our Library of Things items that lets you browse the collection easily
- Easy access to our calendar of events
- A scrolling display of our new items
- A robust list of our electronic and virtual resources for 24/7 use
- Built-in translation tools to display the site in other languages



Wicked Good Henna - all ages

Wednesday, February 2112:00-2:00 PM

Henna artist Mandy Roberge, from Wicked Good Henna, will visit our library to offer henna to registrants of all ages. Sign up for your spot!

Community RoomDover Town Library 56 Dedham St., Dover, MA, 02030

Big Ryan's Tall Tales

Thursday, February 2211:00–11:45 AM Community RoomDover Town Library 56 Dedham St., Dover, MA, O2O3O

Big Ryan returns to Dover! Incorporating puppets, storytelling, music and movement, Big Ryan has something for everyone. All ages. No registration required!

Page Turners Book Club

Tuesday, February 13 2:00-3:00 PM

The library moderates this book discussion group in conjunction with the Council on Aging. Meetings are typically the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm, to discuss selected fiction and nonfiction titles. No registration is required.

This month's selection is... Benjamin Franklin: an American Life, by Walter Isaacson.

Mario Kart Tournament

Wednesday, February 71:00-4:00 PM

Let's play some Mario Kart! Join our friends at One Up Games as they come to the library to bring us a Mario Kart Tournament in the library living room. No registration required! Recommended for ages 8-17 years old.

Parks and Recreation

PERKS & IS LOOKING FOR SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS!







Our team of summer counselors make each year at Summer Club full of non-stop fun for over 150 Kindergarten thru 5th graders here in Dover! Planning and running a variety of activities ranging from arts & crafts and field games, to group science experiments and special events are all part of the job requirements.

With each day so completely different, playing outside and making summertime memories and lifetime friends... are you ready for the best job ever?

2024 SUMMER CLUB COUNSELOR - APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

- These minimums and requirements are non-negotiable. -
- Paid position with no prior experience needed.
- · Must be a current resident of Dover, MA.
- Minimum age of 16 years old by Saturday, June 24, 2024.
- Required to attend, and complete <u>all certification in pre-season staff trainings</u> (held late afternoon/early evenings Monday, June 17 - 21, 2024)
- Commitment to work a <u>minimum of four-consecutive program weeks</u>, with up to six-consecutive program weeks available.
 - 2024 Summer Club will run on Weekdays, from June 24th thru August 2nd (CLOSED in observance of Independence Day on Thurs. 7/4 and Fri. 7/5)

Click here for a COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION C

Click here for your SUMMER 2024 PARKS & REC EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION

(Or copy / paste: documentCenter/View/3309 directly into your browser URL)



Treasurer's Office

Motor Vehicle Excise Bills

The Treasurer's Office will mail the Motor Vehicle excise bills in February, with a billing date of 2/12/24 and a due date of 3/13/24. If the unpaid amount is past the due date, interest will accrue and continue until payment is received.

Methods of Payment:

- l. Online Click on https://www.doverma.gov/544/Pay-Bill-Online
- 2. Check/Cash in the office The Treasurer's Office is open from Monday to Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Fridays.
- 3. Mail to Office of the Tax Collector 5 Springdale Ave, PO BOX 250

Abatement Information:

If you have sold or traded your vehicle, you may be entitled to a Motor Vehicle Abatement. For more information and application, please visit the Assessors page at

https://www.doverma.gov/159/Assessor, or contact the Assessors' Office at 508-785-0032 x241.

Planning Board

The Planning Board is scheduled to convene on February 26, 2024, for a Public Hearing to address several key matters and obtain the public's input. The meeting will take place via Zoom and the link and password will be embedded into the Planning Board agenda available through the town calendar on www.doverma.gov.

Agenda items for the Hearing include:

- Construction Hours Bylaw Proposal: At the request of the Building Department, the Planning Board has drafted a Construction Hours Bylaw. The goal of the bylaw is to help reduce noise and disturbance associated with outside construction and provide an enforcement mechanism.
- Utilization of Funds for Site Plan Review: Presently, the Planning Board can mandate that sub-division and Special Permit applicants finance external reviews conducted by professional consultants for the Planning Board, relieving the Town of the review's financial burden. With expanded and more complex applications coming before the Board, the Planning Board is considering adding Site Plan Review to the list of permissible applications in Ch 248-26 Review Fees of the Town Code. This approach is pivotal for ensuring efficient planning and development in the community.
- Approval of Revision to Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations: At the Annual Town Meeting in May 2023, the town approved an update to Accessory Dwelling Unit Bylaw. Now, the Planning Board is set to review and vote on a supporting Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) regulation which will provide a process and requirements for ADU applications. Your participation in the Hearing is highly encouraged, as your insights will contribute to our informed decision-making process. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Jasmin Farinacci at jfarinacci@doverma.gov.

State Representative

Please save the date! State Representative Denise Garlick will be presenting her Annual Report to the Community where she will share her accomplishments from 2023 and her priorities for 2024. This presentation will be held in person, with the option to attend virtually.

Rep. Denise Garlick's Report to the Community

Monday, February 5th

:*New Location*

Dover-Sherborn Middle School,

155 Farm St, Dover, MA 02030 7:00 - 7:30 P.M. - Presentation

7:30 - 8:00 P.M. - Q&A

Schools

Chickering Elementary School

Thanks to our PTO, Chickering had a sizzling start in January with Grooversity, an ensemble of drummers and dancers, under the direction of Marcus Santos. They introduced the students to drumming styles from Brazil and cultural movement.

January also brought the Song Fest, an all district singing celebration in which our fifth graders participated with Pine Hill, the DSMS and the DSHS performers. The Friends of the Performing Arts (FOPA) has posted their latest <u>newsletter</u>.

Our district calendar committee, commissioned by the Dover School Committee (DSC) is working to review the inclusivity of our holidays celebrated by the schools. The committee is working with all stakeholders within our school community to provide an advisory to the DSC.

We are looking forward to Books from the Heart and Read Your Heart Out Day in February!

Dover Sherborn High School

Girls indoor track and field: 1-3

The Raiders 23-24 Winter Season is underway with 250 student athletes participating across 13 winter sport offerings! Alpine, Nordic, and gymnastics will begin their meets and races after the mid-year break. Records are as follows as of 1/24/24:

Girls swim and dive: 3-3 Girls basketball 9-2

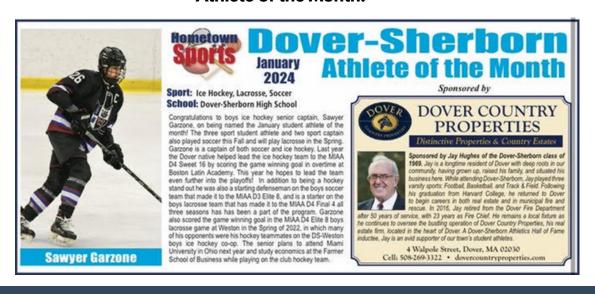
Boys swim and dive: 3-3 Boys basketball 7-5

Girls ice hockey (Hopkinton DS Nipmuc Co-Op) 2-10-1 Boys indoor track and field: 3-1 Boys ice hockey (DS Weston Co-Op): 9-2

Boys Nordic: 6th Place Gymnastics: 3-1

Girls Nordic: 4th Place

Congratulations to Sawyer Garzone on being named the Hometown Weekly January Student Athlete of the Month!



Recycling Committee

Guidance on Textile Disposal

Did you know that approximately 230,000 tons of textiles are thrown away as trash in Massachusetts each year? It's time to make a change. Rather than tossing your old clothes, blankets, and other textiles in the garbage, consider donating them instead. Not only is it the right thing to do, but it's also the law. Remember, textiles are never trash, and it's illegal to throw them away.

The Dover Recycling Committee would like to thank the residents of the town for recycling 20 tons of textiles in 2023. Let's keep up the good work. All clean and dry textiles, even if they are torn, worn, or stained, can be donated for reuse or repurposing. You can deposit these items in the textile bins located at the Transfer Station and schools.

The used textile industry is substantial. Anything that cannot be sold in retail locations will be sold for other purposes. Here are some tips for recycling textiles:

- Take clothes in "great condition" to a consignment store for sale
- Donate clothes in "good condition" to Circle of Hope, Goodwill, or other organizations
- Recycle clothes in "poor condition" in the textile bins
- Donate towels, tablecloths, and linens in "great condition" to A Place To Turn
- Take towels and sheets in "good condition" to an animal shelter

By recycling textiles, we can cut down on the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. Remember to deposit only dry and odorless clothes in any condition, to help keep our environment clean and safe. Let's work together to make a difference and keep textiles out of the trash.

Transfer Station PSA:

- Did you know that plastic bags and film cannot be recycled at the Transfer Station or with private haulers? You can recycle them at grocery stores instead.
- Please remember that black plastic cannot be recycled, so it's better to reuse it until it must be thrown away.
- Also, please don't put frozen food boxes and waxed milk cartons in the recycling bin. They should be thrown in the trash.
- Lastly, furniture collections for charity take place on the 3rd Saturday of every month.

Tree Preservation Committee

New Webpage for Tree Preservation!

The Tree Preservation Committee is excited to announce our new Webpage that is now live on the Dover Town Website! Discover a wealth of information aimed at maintaining your property's trees, preserving our community's public trees, and fostering a greener community for our future.

Here's what you'll find:

Laws and Policy Governing Trees

Learn about local and state ordinances, regulations, and policies that contribute to the conservation of our forests.

Tree Planting Guides

Interested in planting trees? Explore information to help get you started on how to choose the proper tree for your project, suitable species for our region, tree planting techniques, and tips for nurturing healthy saplings. Be a part of our tree-planting initiatives!

Maintenance and Care

Ensure the well-being of existing trees with maintenance and care tips. Discover best practices for watering, pruning, and protecting trees to promote their longevity and vitality.

Educational Materials

Expand your knowledge about the ecological importance of trees. Access educational materials, articles, and videos to deepen your understanding of the role trees play in our environment.

Get Involved

The Committee will post upcoming opportunities to get involved in tree preservation initiatives and community projects, such as Arbor Day activities happening this April. Your involvement and support contributes to our community's healthy and sustainable neighborhoods.

Visit our Tree Preservation Committee Webpage today! Let's grow a greener future together!

https://www.doverma.gov/256/Tree-Committee



Conservation Commission

How Wetlands Help Protect Us From Flooding

Wetlands provide us with a number of critical functions and benefits including flood control, prevention of storm damage, prevention of pollution, and preservation of groundwater, drinking water supply and wildlife habitat. They are teeming with life, and provide essential habitats for many animals and many of the plants found in wetlands remove nutrients, such as nitrogen or phosphorus and other pollutants, from the water that can prove harmful.

Due to the ever-intensifying effects of climate change, we are becoming more and more susceptible to extreme weather events including flooding and droughts. The multiple heavy rainfall events that we're experiencing here in Dover are examples of the "new normal" weather conditions we can expect to experience now and into the future. Wetlands play a crucial role in reducing the impacts of more intense rainfall events that result in more runoff, flooding, storm damage, and pollution into our waters. Recharging rainfall into the ground helps remove pollutants and replenishes our groundwater, drinking water supply and our rivers and streams. Wetlands and the trees and other vegetation within them naturally protect surrounding areas from flooding, as they absorb a significant amount of water and temporarily store it—imperative when inundated with excess water. They are therefore also valuable sources of water during periods of drought.

For more information about the importance of wetlands and how to protect your property from flooding, please visit the following links:

- ·Wetlands: Protecting Life and Property from Flooding. Information pamphlet that describes how wetlands reduce flooding using specific examples.
- $\cdot \underline{Environmental\, Protection\, Agency}.\, Information\, on\, the\, role\, of\, wetlands\, in\, flood\, control.$
- ·Flood Control. Factsheet l in a series of lO factsheets developed by the Convention on Wetlands.
- The factsheet describes how wetlands slow and store water and gives examples from around the world on how wetlands help prevent flood damage.

The Conservation Commission is responsible for preserving and protecting the Town's wetlands and open space. If you're planning a construction project or tree cutting and you think there may be wetlands on or near your property, please contact the Commission office before starting any work by calling 508-785-0032 extension 233 or emailing us at: lhagerty@doverma.org.



Minuteman High School

Minuteman High School recently had some important visitors, including Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro and a delegation from the British Embassy in Washington DC. They were interested in learning about Minuteman's vocational and academic education programs, as well as its Academy model. The school also recently held its FY25 Budget Hearing, with a total budget increase of 3.96%. Dover's share of the budget will increase by 14.3%. Additionally, a new representative, Maggie Charron, will be joining the Minuteman School Committee. Finally, there is a potential issue in the Massachusetts legislature regarding a lottery admissions system for Vocational High Schools to address the lack of available seats. For more information, you can check out an article in the Town of Needham's Observer newspaper from January 17.





February Quick Links



Interested in serving on a volunteer board/committee/commission? Click to learn about the process and vacant positions.





Register for the Community Center Club



Click below to stay updated on Town news







